Thomas A. Edison Papers Digital Edition

Edison-Miller Family Records

Family Records Series, Part V

[F5D07-F] Miller, Rachel A. (1931)

Family Records Series -- Charles Edison Fund Collection -- Edison-Miller Family Papers

Title
[F5D07-F] Miller, Rachel A. (1931)

Description
These six letters from Rachel Miller to her aunt Mina Miller Edison were all written in 1931. Included are references to Thomas Edison's final illness, death, and funeral.

URL

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/folder/F5D07-F

Identifier

F5D07-F

Type

Family Records

Rights

Courtesy of Thomas Edison National Historical Park.

Is Part Of

Family Records Series -- Charles Edison Fund Collection -- Edison-Miller Family Papers

Alternative Title

Miller, Rachel A. (1931)

Has Version

Archive.org Viewer, Microfilm Series Reel 284

Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[F5D07A], Letter from Rachel Alice Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 14th, 1931

Title
[F5D07A], Letter from Rachel Alice Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 14th, 1931

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Miller, Rachel Alice

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Miller, Louise Igoe (Mrs Robert A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1931-10-14

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE health

Folder ID
F5D07-F

Microfilm ID
284:726

Document ID
F5D07A

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/F5D07A

Rights
Thomas Edison National Historical Park

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
14 October 1931

Has Version
Archive.org Viewer, Microfilm Series Reel 284

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
Preußischer Kulturbesitz

xasia

Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/F5D07A/manifest

RACHEL ALICE MILLER
38 COMERCIO STREET
PONCE, PORTO RICO

Aunt Mina darling,

It is almost luncheon time and the morning has fled. I came right on over here on Monday, as I felt I could do more immediate good than by staying in San Juan. Teresa and I have been over everything and really gotten a lot straightened out and are in working order now for the winter. We have made some lovely new things, childrens hdkf, baby and children dresses. The little organdies we have made are simply darling and if others are as wild about them as I am they ought to be grand sellers. Then we have some new towels and some new sets. And now comes the push of getting work done and then getting it sold. We got some stunning new mens hdkf linen and I spent most of yesterday afternoon cutting that and getting it fixed so that we can get our samples ready and push. Jinks life seems nothing but push sometimes, and yet I'd not be very happy to just let the current flow round me, so I guess I'm hard to please. And as a matter of fact I love pushing and the fact that it entails work and success.

Well, it is the same little old island, full of beauty and full of non beauty, but the beauty outweighs I think on the whole. The friends are the same loyal loving group and it is nice to see them once again. As yet I haven't located any real place to lay my head in SJ but I didn't have much time to give to that and as it was a holiday I couldn't see the banker who place I am keenest about. A friend, Marian Wolf, is debating buying a piece of property and turning it into apartments and in that case I might rent one from her. It is a little far off from the shop and really with the candy in embryo I wish I might be nearer, but somehow it will all work out. How full life is of little things that seems such mountains and are really nothing on earth when we have patience with

4-3543

them. You are a marvelous lesson in patience, love and 2
devotion. It is a dad thought, but it is sweet too to
think of you sitting by Uncle Thomas and the love and com-
fortthat he derives from just having you there by him.
Poor darling man, it seems that he should have been spared
such long drawnout illness. It is so hard.
I'm trying to get things here cleaned up a little for
Mother when she arrives. This old house is frightfully
old, but it has a charm about it that I love and if only i
it will hold up on its pins we can live in quite a lot of
domfort. Today I am having Jose clean under the house and
then we will whitewash and disinffect. I'm tryihg to get
rid of a little ant that has infested Mother's bathroom.
Then I think we will try and paint her furniture, it does
look so much nicer if you can freshen up with a little
paint and this man of ours is so willing. Not perhaps the
best painter, but the results looks fairly well and that
is what most counts. As I wrote Mother there is no chance
of our ever being wealthy, for we never cease to have
desires, and the more money we'd acquire right along with
it more desires. And really on the whole we are rich, we
have the joy of love, friendship, a home over our heads
and the most faithful and interested of employees what
more on this earth could any one ask. You, darling, are
one of the greatest blessings. All my love to you and
I hope your darling isn't suffering, but just resting
quietly by your side. Your has been a wonderful union of
love and his love shows how he feels you have blessed it
in every way.

Your Rachel.

This is an old envelope. I'm house cleaning as I go
along
October 14

Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[F5D07B], Letter from Rachel Alice Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 16th, 1931

Title
[F5D07B], Letter from Rachel Alice Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 16th, 1931

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Miller, Rachel Alice

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Miller, Louise Igoe (Mrs Robert A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1931-10-16

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE health

Folder ID
F5D07-F

Microfilm ID
284:728

Document ID
F5D07B

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/F5D07B

Rights
Thomas Edison National Historical Park

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
16 October 1931

Has Version
Archive.org Viewer, Microfilm Series Reel 284

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin
Preußischer Kulturbesitz

xasia

Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/F5D07B/manifest

RACHEL ALICE MILLER
38 COMERCIO STREET
PONCE, PORTO RICO

October 16

Precious Aunt Mina,

Your cable came this morning, bless you and I know you know that every minute of the day I am with you all in spirit. Poor darling Uncle Thomas it seems so terrible for him to be held so, but we seem helpless, don't we. And you darling with the weight of seeing him slip away. He put up a brave fight and struggle for life. What wonderful years of life he has had and what his life has meant to every person and everything of our age. It is miraculous that one person could have given directly and indirectly so much to this world. And it is a wonderful heritage for all of us to have known and loved such a man.

I am sending this by air just to carry my love and a kiss to you. Tomorrow I leave for SJ and expect to really get to work in earnest. I have started things here, but I can't do much of the actual labor, over there so many things that I can do are awaiting me. I hope to start the candy on Monday. Among the things that I found I simply must do here was to change our kitchen floor. It was simply rotted away. This is really the sweet est old house and has a delightful charm about it that I love, but it is frame and one never gets through see what could and should be done. The kit chen I was afraid would kill someone of us soon, so it had to be changed. The men are working on it now. I seized that chance to have our stove gone over too. Iron goes rusty so quickly here and I thought it might be a case of a stitch in time. I'm glad to get it ready so that it will be finish ed when Mother comes. I miss her dreadfully, and

4-3551

yet I can't wish her down here for I know that she will feel nearer to you if she can be up there and it does help to comfort one to feel that they are near and can possibly do some little thing of love for you, my darling. I can only send you my love, with all my heart and soul in it.

Your Rachel.

Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[F5D07C], Letter from Rachel Alice Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 19th, 1931

Title
[F5D07C], Letter from Rachel Alice Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 19th, 1931

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Miller, Rachel Alice

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned
Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1931-10-19

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE death and funeral

Folder ID
F5D07-F

Microfilm ID
284:730

Document ID
F5D07C

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/F5D07C

Rights
Thomas Edison National Historical Park

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
19 October 1931

Has Version
Archive.org Viewer, Microfilm Series Reel 284

Created with
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/F5D07C/manifest

MRS. ROBERT A. MILLER

RACHEL ALICE MILLER

DRAWN WORK
EMBROIDERY
TELEPHONE 543

ROBERT A. MILLER
GIFT SHOP
PORTO RICAN NEEDLE WORK
19 ALLEN STREET
SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO

SALES ROOMS:
36 COMERCIO STREET
PONCE, P. R.

October 14.

My blessed Aunt Minn-.

You could be more in my heart and mind now than you have been in all these good months of strain and sorrow. It would seem that with the long knowledge that Uncle Thomas couldn't get well we should really be prepared to accept the changes. Perhaps it is being so for it does come. But I feel as if all the lives of those I love best were being disorganized and changed and it seems hard to accept. I can know somewhat, darling, what that dreary aloneness will mean for you who gave him everything in your life. But to comfort you you will have such memories of unfailing love, nothing with which to reproach yourself and the knowledge that to him you were the end of the world. You blessed each other and you blessed together all of us who came in touch with you. To me your companionship and joy in marriage and in life and love of those about you stands out with Mother & Father's life as being the complete perfect marriage and life.

My darling, believe me, my love and sorrow just seem boundless and wordless.

Your Rachel.

4-3553

Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[F5D07D], Letter from Rachel Alice Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 21st, 1931

Title
[F5D07D], Letter from Rachel Alice Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 21st, 1931

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Miller, Rachel Alice

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Edison, Madeleine
- Miller, Louise Igoe (Mrs Robert A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1931-10-21

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE death and funeral
- Foreign affairs

Folder ID
F5D07-F

Microfilm ID
284:731

Document ID
F5D07D

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/F5D07D

Rights
Thomas Edison National Historical Park

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
21 October 1931

Has Version
Archive.org Viewer, Microfilm Series Reel 284

Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/F5D07D/manifest

Precious One,

Today they will take that beloved body away from Glenmont. But they will never be able to take the spirit and the beautiful memories that were a part of him and that we all associate with him and so love in our thoughts of what blessings life gave us in our relations with him, with you and with Glenmont in both of you. Of course we love the body, it is our mental picture of the soul and spirit, and yet we can so engrave on our eyes retina that we will never forget it and we have within our grasp the soul and spirit always. As someone said of Uncle Thomas no man ever so fully completed his span, not of years, but of service to the world and to humanity. It is true, it is a lasting heritage not to each of us as a family, but to every mortal in the world. And he will live on forever. And his love will always be beside you, you will never be unaware of it and of its protecting shelter. What would our lives be without that blessed love in its various forms and various degrees of intensity' I feel that to have been within the circle that saw the fruishion of such love is one of the greatest blessings of my life and I thank God that it could be so.

The shop is closed today, and I have tried to keep my mind off you dear ones, tried to realize that I couldn't help by lying idle. But it seem so hard to think of you, whom I adore, in such sorrow and me so far off and dear Madeleine. I know how hopeless it must seem to all of those three darlings to have lost such a tie into the invisible. But you have each othe and after all life is just a question of living for each other and so we must carry on. I wish Mother could have stayed up longer, but perhaps it is best so. You need rest and quiet and yet her love for you is so great that I think she could have helped. Poor darling, I know she is torn by feeling that I need her, and I do need her, but I was willing for her to stay with you.

I think I told you in my airmail letter about the bank failing down here. I suppose I should have taken everything out when I heard the first rumor, but that was months ago, and it seemed like such a poor sport. I hope to find out this week what it may mean to the shop. In money we only lost a couple of hundred, but it is the financial backing of the year that worries me mostly and the establishing of credit in a new bank with things all being restricted. But I am trying to take it day by day and not think or worry over it. I wish Mother might have stayed North until it was adjusted and until the most anxious days of it all were over. But still I am glad that Monday she will be here. I wish she didn't have to go across the Island and yet I am thankful that we have work to do. It is truly one of the greatest blessings that life can give us, don't you think so? What would we be if we didn't have interests in work and in life and just now it is the thing that will help to normalize us and toestablish once more our faith and confidence.

I am going now out to a friends who has a radio and try to hear the services for Uncle Thomas. I pray that they may come through. God bless you, darling, and bring you peace.

Your Rachel.

October 21

4-3526

Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[F5D07E], Letter from Rachel Alice Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 24th, 1931

Title
[F5D07E], Letter from Rachel Alice Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, October 24th, 1931

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Miller, Rachel Alice

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Miller, Louise Igoe (Mrs Robert A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1931-10-24

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE death and funeral
- Foreign affairs
- Banking and bankers

Folder ID
F5D07-F

Microfilm ID
284:732

Document ID
F5D07E

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/F5D07E

Rights
Thomas Edison National Historical Park

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
24 October 1931

Has Version
Archive.org Viewer, Microfilm Series Reel 284

Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/F5D07E/manifest

Precious Aunt Mina,

Another week flown by and on Monday Mother will land. It will seem wonderful to see her. I think we will go right across the island and get her settled at home, and then I will come back on Tuesday to carry on here. At the moment I don't feel very peppy. I caught cold the day after I arrived and last Saturday I thought I had conquered that cold, but this week it broke out again in my face and yesterday and today my sinus and my teeth and jaws and all my body ache. I trust it will be forgotten before Mothers arrival on Monday. I think I will go up to Marian's shortly and undress. Saturday afternoon is never very busy so I think the shop can manage without me.

I think of you constantly. Last night I couldn't sleep and I lay and thought of your courage and pluck and how night after night you went without sleep and still faced each day. Precious darling, I wonder if you can feel that he has just gone into the other room and the door is wide open so that really you can always be with him and he with you. It seems impossible to think of you there without him, he was such a live part of the home and you felt that the clockwork depended on him so much that to feel he is gone from amongst us seems hard to believe. I know you have everyone with you to give you love and companionship and I enjoy them though I am glad for the blessed comfort that I know they are to you.

The week has run along in an even trend. I have worked like a trooper down here trying to assimilate the new things and now Sunday I expect to start to make the candy. I hope that will go over well. I think we will need all such help, for the island is beginning to hear of the North's hard times and people losing their jobs. The bank which I think I wrote you had failed has stated that they will eventually pay dollar for dollar. I hope that they will. Our loss wasn't tremenduous but just now it seems like a lot. The thing that is most worrying is the credit for the fall purchases. I have taken that up with the other bank to whom I turned when our own failed and am hoping to receive some word from them this week as to what their policy will be. I am sorry to have Mother have to be met with such news, but I presume she has probably already heard it on the steamer so there isn't much that I can do about it.

This is just a little message of love, darling, and contains a big hug and kiss.

Your Rachel.

October 24

4-3527

Attribution

CC0 1.0 Universal

[F5D07F], Letter from Rachel Alice Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, 1931

Title
[F5D07F], Letter from Rachel Alice Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, 1931

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Miller, Rachel Alice

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Livingston, Clara E
- Miller, Louise Igoe (Mrs Robert A.)

Date
1931-00-00

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE personality and character
- TAE death and funeral
- Foreign affairs
- Litigation

Folder ID
F5D07-F

Microfilm ID
284:733

Document ID
F5D07F

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/F5D07F

Rights
Thomas Edison National Historical Park

Publisher
Thomas A. Edison Papers, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University

License
CC0 1.0 Universal

Timestamp
1 January 1931

Has Version
Archive.org Viewer, Microfilm Series Reel 284

Created with PDiiif v0.2.3
https:/pdiiif.jbaiter.de

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/F5D07F/manifest

Precious Aunt Mina,

Tomorrow another plane goes up and though I know Mother will give you all the news still I'll add my bit. She landed safely yesterday morning, I should say about six o'clock. Just why those boats come in at the crack of dawn I can't see. Though actually the landing must have been gorgeous for the moon was still up and this old fort down here is really a beautiful sight either by sunrise or my moonlight, and I was glad for that bit of cheer for Mother. Mrs. Beverly was going down to meet her husband and so she took me with her. She lives right across the street from Marian Wolf's. It was awfully nice for he is Attorney General and that meant that his car went right on the pier and it does make life much more easy when you have a few little pulls like that. And then can you believe that I would be so unsportsmanlike that I crowed because he had lost a case. One of my dearest friends down here, Clara Livingston has had a terrible time with the gorvernment, for after her father's death, they claimed 300 acres of her land. And she fought it tooth and nail. Finally she won down here in the courts and then won in the Federal Court in Boston and then the government appealed it to the Supremem Court. Of course we all held our breath for fear it would be lost the third time. Mr. Beverly was not the originator of the suit, or I'd never speak to him again, but he has been the Attorney General who has had to carry on with it, and he did put in the third appeal for tbial by the Supremem Court. Of course I felt simply radiant that she had won, and I have been diplomatic so long about it, that I just decided I'd let him know that my heart and soul were with her and that I thanked heavens he had lost. So I did. I do feel a bit sorry that I did it just when I did, but it got under his skin and I wanted to do that and perhaps it was the best time.

But to go back, Mother and I had breakfast with Marian and the Judge in their lovely home and then wandered down to the shop. I had made my first candy and decided not to sell but to give it away as samples. It has made quite a hit and I am going home now to make some more of it. I'm going to send you a sample of it by this mail. If you don't like bonbons you can pass it on to someone else that may enjoy it. Mother had so many visitors that I hardly saw her. Miss Hicks came over from Ponce in her car to take her home. It was a wonderfully thoughtful thing to do for after that trip the bus ride would have been tiring. I didn't go hom with them. First place I was actually sick the latter part of last week, and my face still aches a little, and I dreaded that ride and then for the first time in my young life I actually lay awake all night and as a result haven't felt like much. So Mother and I decided that I'd go over on Friday and have the week end with her, in many ways that is nicer for it will break her time.

Of course I wanted to hear about you and all the dear ones up there and I still feal that there is loads for me to hear about.

Mr. Domenech, the Treasurer of the island was just in and expressed his sympathy over Uncle Thomas's going and your great loss and mine, darling, and he said he was the first American of whom he had ever heard and he had always revered him. Eleanor sent me some newspaper slippings about him and what a tribute to feel that down to the smallest people in the most obscure part of the world his life was felt and he was beloved.

Sweetdreams, my darling and all my love.

Rachel.

4-3528